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SOURCE Die Wirtschaft.PRODUCES SYNTHETIC FELDSPAR

MADE FROM NATIVE GRANITES -- Die Wirtschaft, No 13, 30 Mar 50

In cooperation with the Koethen Research Institute for Minerals and Soils, the Zeundorf Brick and Tile Works in Koethen, Sachsen, has succeeded in producing a synthetic feldspar from native granites. The product is suitable for the manufacture of high-grade porcelain and stoneware and for the production of spar glazes for stoneware. Moreover, experiments conducted to attain greater pressure resistance have also been successful, the normal standard of pressure resistance having been far surpassed.

Before the war, feldspar, a material indispensable to the porcelain industry, had to be imported, particularly from Sweden. After World War I, successful experiments were conducted with quartz spar of native origin, but the quality of this material did not meet the requirements for high-grade products.

The recent successful experiments are especially significant because the large deposits of china clay (kaolin) in the immediate vicinity of the Koethen plant would justify the development of an industry. Investigations have proved that nearly all clay pits in the Fuhne valley contain clay which is white after calcination. In the vicinity of Halle, there are deposits of crude clay as well as kaolin. It is from these pits, incidentally, that the Berlin porcelain industry draws its raw materials.

CERAMICS INDUSTRY EXPANDS -- Die Wirtschaft, No 9, 2 Mar 50

The ceramics industry was of great importance during the prewar years, with 20-50 percent of its products earmarked for export. After resumption of production in 1945, 50 percent of the 1936 production level was reached, but little of the output went for export. During the second half of 1948, the 1936 level was reached, and in 1949 it was exceeded, with a simultaneous increase in exports.

The Hescho plant at Hermsdorf, which specializes in the manufacture of industrial ceramics goods, has now reached a production level 82 percent above 1936. Taking the 1945 production as 100, production levels have risen as follows: 1945, 100; 1946, 170; 1947, 210; 1948, 280; 1949, 327. Sixty percent of the plant's output is exported.

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While the quality of the chinaware exhibited at the Leipzig Fair in the fall of 1949 was already very high, further improvement can be expected during 1950, because the better supply of raw materials will finally make it possible to produce sanitary ceramic equipment and tableware in a pure white color.

The Lettin plant, which has been producing chinaware of very inferior quality, is now one of the foremost producers of high-quality goods in this field.

The improvement in quality and design of utilitarian products, such as coffee sets, bowls, lamps, etc., will take precedence over decorative articles.

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